6/2/73

Dear Sol,

You had no monopoly on youthful inflexibility and the feeling of being what you put well in calling it a fountain of certainty. Most of us, however, whether or not we are inflexible when young, become very set in our thinking, beliefs and attitudes as we age. I see much of this.

Lil's fall seems to have done no permanent harm. Occasionally the knee is ak bit tender, but by now I can see no difference in her ability to get around. She spent a little while hoeing the garden we are trying to start, and while she is preparing lunch I'm rushing to respond so I can get back to writing the book for which there is no immediate prospect.

The man was Redlich. You knew him by his excellent reputation, I knew him by what he never expected anyone ever to see. Lawyers are not often prepared to be without an adversary. When they are, and when they expect to be able to operate in secret, the combination can offer more temptation than they can handle. In political situations, too many can't be honest, principled and responsible.

All you say of what Watergate means is quite true. In my view, it still falls short of the horrible reality, that it was part of a scheme (by probable paranoids) to firmly establish an authoritarian state. As there are new disclosures, and there should be even greater sensations, Nixon's point of no return presses upon him. It is not possible to be certain how he will react. It is difficult to imagine him giving up quietly, although I can and have anticipated this as a possibility. His alternative, if the case is fully developed, is force. His administration had been disasterous for all but the military and the wealthy.

Because of the nature of the work I've been doing for going on ten years now, I have seen the authoritarian trend I think clearly. My files contained much of the research necessary if I make the book long enough to include, which I doubt. (My Watergate files are more than a full file drawer right now.) JFK was tending away from authoritarianism whenhe was assassinated. Since then national policy has gone in the opposite direction. Especially legal policy, if you have followed it. Was anything else possible with Mitchells, Kleindienst, Carswells, Burgers, etc.?

In any event, I plan to work the two themes in together, this is the trend and Nixon's history and this is how it was done, in which the crimes, to the degree necessary, are described and explained. Some of the crimes have not yet been exposed. Some may never be.

This is a dangerously sick man.

Hope all is going well with all of you and that it is possible for us to get together soon.

Sincerely,